

December 10, 2023 • 10 am

*Second Sunday of Advent*



**St. Michael's**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[www.stmichaelschurch.org](http://www.stmichaelschurch.org)

## **Welcome to St. Michael's Episcopal Church!**

We are an open, affirming and inclusive parish, worshipping in the Episcopal tradition. No matter where you're from, or what you believe, you are welcome to gather with us, sing with us, pray with us, learn with us, and receive communion with us. We do our best to make our customs accessible to all people, but if anything feels confusing to you, feel free to ask someone for help, or simply sit and observe.

### **Welcome, Visitors! Tell us about yourself.**



If you are visiting today, we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card, or scan this QR code to fill it out online. We would love to get to know each other! And if you're seeking baptism, confirmation, or simply a community of healing and hope to belong to, we would be delighted to join you on your journey.

### **Online Giving now available.**

If you wish to donate to St. Michael's, either to the church or the Necessity Pantry, simply scan the QR code, or visit [www.stmichaelschurch.org/give](http://www.stmichaelschurch.org/give). While there, you can arrange recurring payments for weekly, monthly, or yearly giving.

*Note: The church pays a 2.5% transaction fee with the receipt of each online gift. This is standard for digital transactions.*



# Ministry of the Word

## Prelude / Candle Lighting

### Processional

"I Hear a Sound"

Gustafson

1. I hear a sound com - ing from the moun - tain,  
2. I see the King stand - ing on the moun - tian,  
I hear it loud - er each day. I hear a sound com - ing  
I see Him clear - er each day. I see the King stand - ing  
from the moun - tain and it says, "Pre - pare ye the way." "Pre -  
on the moun - tain, and He says, "Pre - pare ye the way." "Pre -  
pare ye the way, pre - pare ye the way, pre -  
pare ye the way, pre - pare ye the way, pre -  
pare ye the way of the Lord."  
pare ye the way of the Lord."

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -  
 mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,  
 Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy  
 up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
 Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

David Hurd, Setting from *New Plainsong*  
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Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you**

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Collect of the Day**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Old Testament**

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,  
 that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.  
 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it  
together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”  
A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?”  
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows  
upon it; surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”  
See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.  
8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.  
9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
    righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
    and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
    and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
    and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

## New Testament

## 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



**Sequence**

*“While We Are Waiting, Come”*

Cloninger/Cason



1. While we are wait - ing, come; While we are wait - ing, come.  
 2. With pow'r and glo - ry, come; With pow'r and glo - ry, come.  
 3. Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, While we are wait - ing, come.

Text: Clair Cloninger; Music: Don Cason  
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CCLI# 478600

**Holy Gospel**

**Mark 1:1-8**

**Gospeller** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark  
**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**Gospeller** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

*“Prepare the Way”*

The Rev. Ryan Wiksell

## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

## Prayers of the People

Intercessor: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. (pause) For all people in their daily life and work;

**All: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For the city of Independence and Greater Kansas City, for the state of Missouri, for the United States and for the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**



For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the truth.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Diane our Bishop Provisional, for Ryan our Priest, for Larry our Deacon Emeritus, and for all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God and the Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts; (pause) Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts. (pause) We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. (pause) Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

Intercessor: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**All: Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## **The Peace**

Celebrant    The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People        And also with you.**

# The Holy Communion

## Offertory Sentence

**Offertory**      “*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*”      Hymnal #67

**The Presentation**      “*Doxology*”      Hymnal #380, v.3

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise Him all crea-tures here be-low. Praise Him a-bove ye heav'n-ly hosts. Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost.

Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505? - 1585)

## The Great Thanksgiving

**Celebrant**      The Lord be with you.      Hymnal #S-120

**People**      **And also with you.**

**Celebrant**      Lift up your hearts.

**People**      **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Celebrant**      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People**      **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

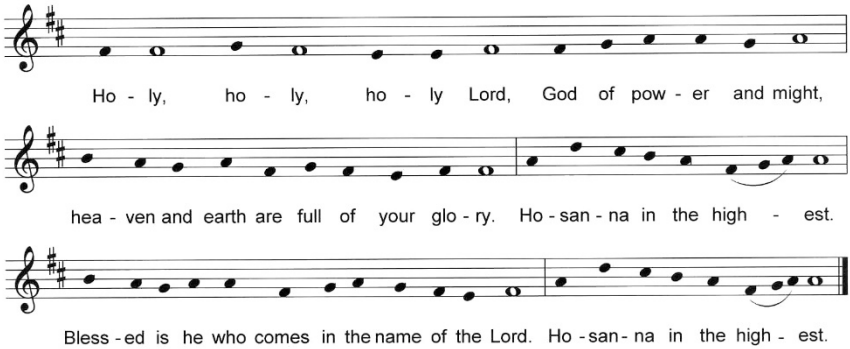
**Celebrant:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [*The Celebrant recites a proper preface.*]

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

# Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Hymnal #S-124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

David Hurd, Setting from *New Plainsong*  
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## Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All**     **Christ has died.**  
          **Christ is risen.**  
          **Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to say,

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

Celebrant     Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People**        **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant     The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



**Communion Notes:** All are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing. Communion is offered in two kinds: bread and wine. One may receive the bread alone, dip it into the wine, or drink from the chalice after consuming the bread. Sealed, pre-packaged containers of bread and wine are available. Gluten-free bread may be requested by crossing one's hands palms-down. All manners of reception are valid. A blessing may be requested by crossing one's hands over the chest.

**Anointing for Healing:** After communion is received, those in need of prayer for healing of body, mind or spirit, may join the priest at the kneeler along the wall. Feel free to kneel, or stand, to receive an anointing of oil. Prayer requests may be spoken or unspoken.

## Communion

*"O Day of God Draw Nigh"*

Hymnal #601

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All:** Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Blessing +



Closing Hymn "My Lord He Is a-Comin' Soon" Cothran/Winnen

My Lord, he is a - com - in' soon; pre - pare ye the  
way of the Lord. Get ev - 'ry - thing rea -  
dy for that day; pre - pare ye the way of the Lord.

*Fine*

1. If you're a sleep, it's time to wake up;  
2. Come, Lord Je - sus, come in - to my heart;

a - wake, O sleep - er, a - rise. If  
pre - pare ye the way of the King.

you're in the dark, it's time to be lit;  
He is com - ing, he's com - ing soon;

D.C.  
a - wake, O sleep - er, a - rise!  
pre - pare the way of the King!

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

## **Serving Today**

Celebrant	The Rev. Ryan Wiksell
Acolyte	Jolene Cerveny
Cantor	Aaron Crossley
Pianist	Rachel Swaney
Lectors	Aaron Crossley, The Rev. Larry Allen, Kelly Johnson
Intercessor	Melinda Swayne
Altar Guild	Charlotte Edwards, Genie Kuske
Usher/Greeter	Mindy Swayne
Livestream	Corban Crossley

## **St. Michael's Leadership**

The Rev. Ryan Wiksell, priest  
The Rev. Larry Allen, deacon emeritus  
Melinda Swayne, senior warden  
Kelly Johnson, junior warden  
Mary Johnson, treasurer  
HazelAnn Barkie-Cox, secretary  
Susan Rodriguez, vestry member  
Jolene Cerveny, vestry member

## **Contact Us**

816-373-5333

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## ***What do you think?***

The St. Michael's Vestry needs your help to make a decision! Since 2016, the icon of the Archangel Michael has hung on the wall in the back corner of the Nave. We are trying to decide whether to keep it there, replace it with something else, or leave that space empty.

At the moment you will notice that, in that place, is a tapestry of the Lord's Supper, which used to hang in our chapel room. Before you share your opinion about the future of that corner, please read the following:

The Case for ***Keeping*** the Archangel Icon:

We are St. Michael's Episcopal Church; our patron saint is St. Michael. In the Book of Revelation, St. Michael commands God's army against Satan's forces: "And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon." It is only appropriate that we have an icon of our patron saint as depicted in our Holy Scripture in our sanctuary.

The Case for ***Removing*** the Archangel Icon:

While the above Scripture is indeed an important part of our identity as St. Michael's, in its depiction of an act of fatal aggression it may not accurately convey our values, particularly in a space intended for worship. Like all Scriptural symbols, we will continue to read this passage and learn from it. But this particular symbol, presented without context, does not align with our message of Love and Forgiveness.

**I believe the wall in the corner of the Nave should feature:**

- The original icon of St. Michael
- The Lord's Supper tapestry
- Nothing, or something else to be determined later